

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 1, 2024**

October 1, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Anderson, Commissioner Suda, Barta, Brintnell, and Skorheim

At 9:00 am the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

**Skorheim moved to approve the September 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes and monthly bills; seconded by Barta. All voted in favor.**

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented an abatement application for Gary Ferguson on his property at 77 Carpenter Ave W, Forest River, ND for the 2023 and 2024 tax years. Mr. Ferguson is applying for a farm residence exemption, which was approved by the City of Forest River. Ed recommended approving the abatement application to reduce the true and full value of the parcel to the land value of \$690 for the 2023 and 2024 tax years. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the abatement application for Gary Ferguson, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Auditor Quibell reviewed the timeline for the Primary Residence Credit and how it relates to the mobile home deadlines. After a lengthy discussion **Suda made a motion that the Sheriff's Department will not proceed with the delinquent mobile home process for those that qualified for the PRC until after the final report from the State is received on November 5<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Brintnell.** Roll vote Brintnell -Y, Barta – Y, Skorheim – N, Suda – Y, Anderson – Y; motion approved.

Auditor Quibell discussed the livestreams before the meeting starts and during breaks. Kelley Cole, States Attorney, joined the meeting to assist in the discussion. It was decided that the microphone will continue to be muted during breaks and prior to the meeting starting.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Walsh County Right-of-Way Ordinance was reviewed. Jason discussed that the section on Injuries to Highways (N.D.C.C 12-24-01) should be detailed to bring more clarity to that section of the ordinance. **Barta made a motion to add the clarification of the Injuries to Highways to the Walsh County Right-of-Way Ordinance, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Drainage permit application for Mark Novak, submitted by Kevin Mudder. After a discussion it was decided that the landowner will need to sign the permit application prior to approval.
- Drainage permit applications for Russell Pastir, Ed Stoltman, Dan and Ernie Dusek, and Kadlec Farms/Brian Kadlec were reviewed. **Barta made a motion to approve the drainage permits as presented, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Bridge inspection data for the county's bridges was reviewed and discussed. Of the 209 bridges there are 53 rated Poor, 109 rated Fair, and 47 rated Good.
- Ballot measures were reviewed and discussed. It was discussed that County Measure 1 should be published separately from Measure 4 publications.

Daryl Campbell, Walsh County Water Resource District, presented the assessments for the government drains. After a discussion, **Barta made a motion to approve the assessments for the government drains, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Auditor Quibell reviewed the final budget for 2025 with the commissioners. The general fund and special revenue funds for the county were reviewed: County General 2025 appropriation was \$6,160,907, Capital Projects \$670,000, Veteran Services \$91,870, County Agent \$148,058, Weed Control \$241,142.40, Road & Bridge \$3,313,101.15; all funds totaling \$13,938,343.70. The countywide funds were then reviewed: Walsh County Health District \$150,000, Historical Society \$14,400, JDA \$337,250, Water Resource District \$275,000, Soil Conservation District \$177,500, and the State Mill Levy for 1.0 mill. Also reviewed were the location specific levies: Red River Joint Water District \$93,448, Devils Lake Water District \$3,080, and Carnegie Library \$125,000. After a discussion on the Red River Basin Commissions request for \$5,518, **Barta made a motion to not approve the request, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved. Quibell clarified that Red River Joint Water District's request for 2025 would then be \$87,930. After a discussion **Brintnell made a motion to designate levying the Capital Projects levy for 2025 for either the \$5 million HVAC bill for the courthouse or the jail project, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved. After a lengthy discussion **Suda made a motion to approve the final budget as presented for 2025, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Brintnell gave an update on the Region 3 & 4 Caucus.

Quibell updated the commissioners on the parcels that are not sold at the November sale and placed into the county's name. The parcels are in the county's name by default but there is no financial obligation for special assessments. Special assessments would be added to the parcel but unpaid until the parcel is sold.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am

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Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

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Kristi Quibell, Auditor